

## This Week in Ellis Island History

## **November 18, 1774**

Samuel Ellis purchases Little Oyster Island. It would become known as Sam Ellis' Island or simply Ellis Island. Ellis used the island for its namesake oysters, selling them from a shop in Manhattan and opening a tavern on Ellis Island, until his death in 1794.



Ellis Island appears on this 1770s map as the northernmost island in the harbor, west of New York